



Merri-bek
City Council

Hallam Reserve

Park upgrade

Consultation summary report

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Revision A

Revision A: initial consultation summary: August 2026



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Hallam Reserve is a medium-sized park by Cumberland Road in Pascoe Vale, including a sports oval with pavilion, cricket nets, public toilet, playspace and seats.

The passive recreation areas have been assessed as ready for a park upgrade, according to Merri-bek City Council's Open Space and Playspace strategies.

This report provides a summary of the Hallam Reserve consultation for this park.

1. Background

This report covers a summary of each consultation stage for the Hallam Reserve park upgrade.

As mentioned on Conversations Merri-Bek webpage, the following elements of the reserve are not negotiable as part of this upgrade:

- The location of the playspace will need to be determined by Council and by the voting exercise undertaken during the initial consultation.
- Very large play elements (like flying foxes) cannot be included in the playspace as there is limited available space.
- Park infrastructure upgrades will be determined by Council.
- Connecting paths and accessibility improvements will be determined by Council, though the community can also provide their inputs.
- Some elements are outside our scope of works, including the active sports elements, buildings, reserve car park and adjacent streets.
- The final concept design must fit within the available budget.

To date Council's Open Space Design and Development unit have completed the first consultation phase with the local community near Hallam Reserve. These consultation stages are:

- **Initial consultation**

Council have asked the local community what they would like to see included in the upgrade of this park. This information can be used as input to develop the draft concept plan. This stage has now closed.

- **Draft Concept Plan Consultation**

Using results from the initial consultation, Council will develop a draft concept plan using the local community's initial input.

- **Final Concept Plan Consultation**

This final concept plan will reflect any modifications to the draft concept plan, incorporating the community's feedback where possible. This final concept plan will close the consultation process, prior to the team proceeding to detailed design.

Consultation timings

Initial consultation: 27 July – 21 August 2026 (completed)

Draft concept plan consultation: November 2026 (dates to be confirmed)

Final concept plan issued: December 2026 (dates to be confirmed).

For both the initial and draft concept plan consultations, postcards are distributed to households within 0.5km of Hallam Reserve, advising residents that they can provide feedback using Council's website, <https://conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/hallam-reserve>. Posters advertising the consultation stage are also displayed near the playspace.

Once consultation completes, the Open Space Design and Development team will proceed to detailed design and then procurement. We will advise further when construction will be starting and finishing, once we know.

2. Initial Consultation Feedback Findings

Council received **21** voting responses on whether people preferred the playspace to remain in its current location ('Location A' as was shown on the concept plan) or relocated to the south-west corner ('Location B'). There were **15** votes for the existing playspace location and **6** votes for the revised location so we will retain the upgraded playspace in its current location, this being the majority vote.

Council also received 25 feedback responses, each with several suggestions.

This feedback has been organised into the following categories (not in order):

- **Natural feel of the park**

Various respondents mentioned that they enjoy the open and natural feel of this park with its established trees and how they would like this to be retained. We will be retaining all existing trees (unless any are identified dying or dead).

One respondent asked if some of the trees can be uplifted to improve sightlines which we can look at adjacent to the playspace and paths.

A few respondents asked if we could provide a landscape buffer from Boundary Road to help make the park more protected from ambient traffic noise. We agree that this is a good idea and are considering providing infill planting along the nature strip of Boundary Road adjacent to the park.

One respondent asked for improved habitat for wildlife, especially birds. We can investigate bird nest boxes if budget allows.

- **Accessibility:**

A few respondents asked for a gravel path linking Bawden Court to Boundary Road. We can investigate formalising the current dirt track section of footpath, either as gravel or concrete, depending on how we can work around existing tree root zones.

We agree that the area around the pavilion and car park has poor accessibility and will investigate improvements to paths and fencing through this design, especially with wheelchair users in mind.

- **Playspace:**

As the majority voted for the playspace to remain in its current location, we will be doing so. We are currently looking to remove the redundant communications cable that runs overhead over the playspace which limits heights of possible equipment.

A few respondents asked for play equipment for both younger and older children. As there is limited space in this reserve for the playspace, this playspace is intended primarily for younger children. We will endeavour to provide equipment that covers young to junior age as much as possible.

A few people asked for play including slides, swings, cubby or similar and climbing. A flying fox is not possible in this small space.

Some people asked for nature-based play. We are looking to extend and formalise the garden beds near the playspace so can look at options to include there also.

- **Seating:**

Various respondents asked for more comfortable and better seating. We are planning to upgrade the existing seating in this reserve and also include a range of other seats including platform seats (which support multiple people). A few asked for picnic settings which we will look at including.

It is unlikely that there is sufficient space and budget for a shelter, especially as there are many shade trees already present in this reserve.

- **Dog Related:**

One respondent asked if we could prevent dogs from entering the playspace area via Sage Street. We can include a no dogs sign on the gate and ask dog owners to enter the reserve from the other entry points to avoid the playspace.

A few people asked for either the playspace or the reserve to be fenced. We are planning to replace the fencing along Boundary Road but remove the fencing along Landells Road, replacing it with large boulders as a landscape barrier. We would not be fully fencing either the playspace or the reserve (other than retaining the existing playspace fencing and fencing along Boundary Road).

- **BBQ:**

One respondent asked for a BBQ to be included. At this stage it is unlikely that there will be sufficient funds to provide this. There are also limited locations available that are not taken up by established trees, active sports, buildings and the playspace.

- **Outdoor gym:**

A few respondents asked for a fitness equipment station. This would be a great idea for this reserve and would complement the active sports. We will look into incorporating this, should there be sufficient funds. Or can add these elements at a later stage when further funds have been secured.

- **Waste bins:**

A few respondents mentioned that there are inadequate waste bins or that they are in poor locations. We will relocate the existing bins near to entry points and adjacent to paths.

One person mentioned that the electrical cabinet by the playspace is being used as a waste bin. We can include a waste bin near the playspace entry and look at replacing the electrical cabinet box so waste cannot be dumped into it.

- **Safe crossing point over Boundary Road:**

A few respondents asked for a safe crossing point over Boundary Road. Unfortunately this is outside the scope of works for the park upgrade. Having followed up with our Transport team, Boundary Road is a secondary arterial road and under the jurisdiction of the state government rather than council. We can advise that council has already been advocating for such a crossing since August 2025 and residents would be best placed to contact the Department of Transport and Planning to add their inputs to this request.

- **Toilet upgrade:**

One respondent asked for the public toilet to be upgraded. Unfortunately this is outside the scope of works for the park upgrade and toilet upgrades are managed by another team. We encourage residents to contact council maintenance to report issues with the toilet.

- **Sports lighting:**

One respondent asked for improved sports lighting. Works concerning active sports are outside the scope of works for this park upgrade. We understand that the Recreation team and sports club are already considering improving the sports lighting as part of their future upgrade.

- **Other requests:**

Some respondents also asked for a half basketball court, water feature and a shade sail. There is not enough available space for a half basketball court in this reserve. Nor are there sufficient funds for a water feature. There are already established trees over most of the playspace so a shade sail cannot be provided there.

One respondent asked for a community garden. Unfortunately there is insufficient space to accommodate such a space in this reserve.

We will endeavour to address as many of these requirements as possible in the Hallam Reserve draft concept design.

3. Draft Concept Plan Consultation Feedback Findings

Feedback on the draft concept plan will be summarised here once this stage has been reached.

4. Final Concept Plan

The final concept plan will be summarised in this section with the plan itself shown in the Appendix as well as on the Conversations webpage.

5. Next Steps

The Open Space Design and Development team will be developing the draft concept plan using feedback from the initial consultation. Once completed this will be displayed both on posters at site and on the Conversations webpage. We will also issue postcards to local residents within 0.5km of this reserve asking for their feedback.

6. Further information

Any questions can be directed to Council's Open Space Design & Development Unit via email openspace@merri-bek.vic.gov.au or by phoning 9240 111.

7. Appendix

Below is all feedback received from the community for each stage of consultation for the Hallam Reserve and images of the postcards and posters issued.

7a Initial Consultation

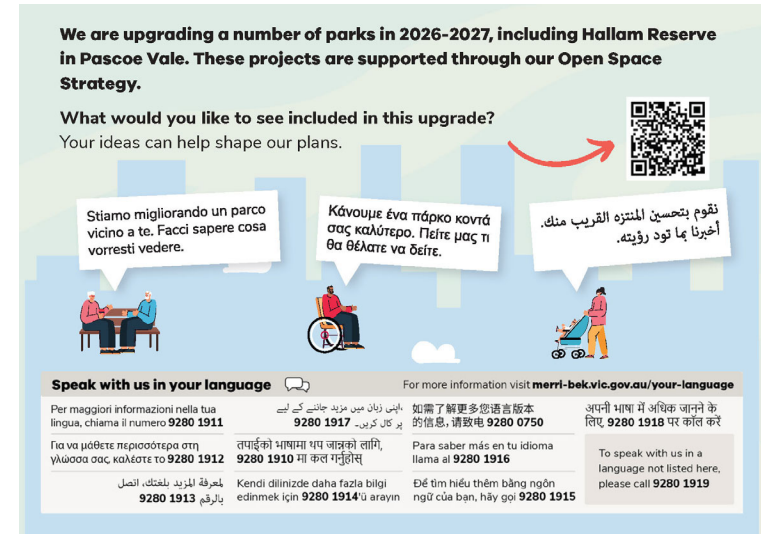


Figure 1: Postcards were issued to households within 0.5km of the reserve.

Below is feedback received for the Hallam Reserve initial consultation:

Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
31 July 2026	Local visitor	A footpath along the west boundary of the reserve along Landells road to Boundary road is essential. This area gets very muddy, this would more effectively connect homes to the shops on boundary road and improve access to the reserve from the north west. Improving and formalising the entrance points from Sage Street, Landals Road and Boundary Road would improve access for all abilities into the reserve. Understorey planting along the north along Boundary Road would improve the amenity of the park and the existing footpath along Boundary Road. The reserve has beautiful large established trees - these should be retained throughout any redevelopment. There is often rubbish left at the reserve after sporting games - additional bins in various locations would help this issue. Improvements to the pavilion and toilet block are encouraged to improve visibility, access and safety.
30 July 2026	Brendon Agpasa	I think these are great ideas for improving Hallam Reserve. The revised location for the expanded playspace, along with outdoor gym equipment, will provide more fun and fitness opportunities for visitors. Adding active sports facilities like cricket, blind cricket, and footy ovals will enhance the sporting options available. Incorporating a gathering space with picnic areas, water fountains, BBQs, and activity decks with seating will make the park more inviting for social events, community bus, schools and relaxation. Accessibility features such as wheelchair and mobility ramps ensure the park is inclusive for all abilities. Improved pedestrian footpaths and bushwalking trails will encourage outdoor activity and nature exploration. Overall, these numerous enhancements across Pascoe Vale's Hallam Reserve will create a more vibrant, accessible, and enjoyable community space—especially next to the expanded sports ovals, which will be a great addition.
30 July 2026	Soph	Keep play area where it is ,its more visible, add some new seating, update equipment, definitely needs rubbish bin near play area theres some sort of electrical box on ground near gate lots of people put rubbish near or in it, it would be good fenced off more, plan b would be good for exercise equipment and picnic table with canopy. Some more ground native plants would be good too.
30 July 2026	TK	Totally agree that the playground needs to be reviewed. It almost needs an overhaul - council have done an amazing job on some of the playgrounds in MerriBek that have recently got a refresh. If you keep to the same theme - open play equipment for all ages - you're on to a winner. I personally like the current location of the playground. Well shaded and away from busy roads. However would be good to consider fitness equipment at the alternate location so older kids and adults can have a go.
30 July 2026	TLandN	There are so many great suggestions already mentioned. I wanted to add how Hallam Reserve houses a lot of wildlife, especially birdlife. Coming to the park multiple times a week with my young son over the years, we have seen tawny frogmouths, endangered swift parrots, bats, possums, swallows, magpies, rainbow lorikeets, birds of prey, and more, plus many interesting insects. A playspace that lends itself to the environment and

Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
		nature play would enhance kids awareness for creatures that already reside here. Lots of tactile and musical play would also be greatly appreciated.
29 July 2026	KerronW	I walk to this reserve most days and the park benches are woeful, rickety and outdated. New ones would be much appreciated, both situated in the sun and shade for year round use. Additional rubbish bins would also be great, as well as a path from Landell's road so you don't have to traipse over uneven ground, branches, long grass and leaves to access the reserve. I also second the call for a pedestrian crossing to help in accessing the shops on Boundary road - it's scary playing chicken with traffic when trying to get across the road.
29 July 2026	Meg	Hallam Reserve is an important designated off-leash area for local residents and their dogs. It provides one of the few spaces in the area where dogs can exercise freely and safely under their owners' supervision. Council recognises Hallam Reserve as an off-leash reserve, making it a valuable community asset for dog owners. However, the reserve directly borders Boundary Road, a busy arterial road with high traffic volumes. If a dog becomes startled, chases a ball, wildlife or another dog, or simply slips away from its owner, it can reach the road within seconds. The consequences could be catastrophic, not only for the dog but also for motorists who may swerve or brake suddenly to avoid a collision. This also applies to children who may run in to the road away from parents. A secure fence that dogs cannot squeeze under, through or over along the entire Boundary Road boundary would significantly improve safety while allowing the reserve to continue functioning as an off-leash space. The fence should be designed with appropriate height, durable materials and secure ground clearance to prevent escapes. Council has previously recognised the need to improve safety around Hallam Reserve by advocating for a signalised pedestrian crossing on Boundary Road. Installing a secure boundary fence is a logical extension of this commitment to public safety and would further protect both park users and passing traffic. I urge Council to prioritise this fencing as part of any upgrades to Hallam Reserve. It is a practical, cost-effective investment that will improve safety, give dog owners and parents using the park greater confidence in using the reserve, and help ensure this valued off-leash park continues to serve the community safely for many years to come.
28 July 2026	Mannie	As all who live on it or near know Boundary Road is very busy at all times of the day and night. There are no controlled crossing on the road between Cumberland Road and Sussex Street. To maximize use and enjoyment of Hallam reserve there must be a safe crossing point somewhere between Derby Street and Landells Road. This would also improve access to the local post office and businesses opposite Hallam reserve. It would also encourage the elderly residents at Pascoe Gardens if there was a safe place to cross. I also think extra seating benches would be welcome with water drinking fountains nearby for the long hot summers would make an ideal spot for outdoor leisure. Upgrading the facilities without improving safe access would be a waste of rate payers money.

Date Submitted	Screen Name	Description
28 July 2026	Caitlin	This playground desperately needs an overhaul. It has been the same since I use to visit as a kid almost 30 years ago which speaks volumes to the current condition of the playground. My two kids who love running, climbing and generally being active don't like coming to this playground that's right at the end of our street and instead we end up driving to a different playground. Improved seating around the playground would be fantastic. The playground could be kept in the same location but with access to the carpark fenced off to improve safety (people can still access the car park via the footpath in front of the club rooms). My 3 year old would like to suggest having "a really big tower, stepping stones, a swing that everyone can go on and climbing things". Thank you for your consideration.
27 July 2026	Daniel M	Provide climbing and open/skills based play for kids, rather than fixed play, such as prebuilt slide and monkey bars. Douglas Reserve or Royal Park Nature Playground are good examples of play areas that keep kids engaged.
27 July 2026	Oliver	Exercise equipment would be great, including pull up and dip bars. Love the initiative to upgrade this park!
24 August 2026	Tim	I would like this email to be considered as part of the Hallam Reserve playground park upgrade please. I missed the 21st August closing date apologies. I believe the playground should stay at Location A and an outdoor gym be incorporated at Location B. I am in favour of strength-based gym equipment such as sit up benches, pull up/chin up bars, chest press etc. People are currently use the flagpole on the pavilion to do chin ups. Playground - swings and climbing equipment amongst other things would be appreciated. I like the idea of a BBQ area with table and seats. On a side note, there needs to be a crossing from Boundary Rd into the Hallam Reserve. The closest safe crossing is 480m to the west (Cumberland Rd) and 480m to the east (Sussex St). It's very dangerous and frightening to cross with a pram. More elderly people will use the park, coming from Pascoe Vale Gardens retirement village too. Thanks for the ongoing work that Council does to make our community more liveable.

7b Draft Concept Plan Consultation

Images of the draft concept consultation postcards will be displayed here once this consultation stage has been reached.

7c Final Concept Plan

Images of the final concept will be displayed here once this consultation stage has been reached.